

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 47 as follows:

47. (Three Times Amended) The saw of claim 40, further comprising:

23 a work surface attached atop said housing, said work surface comprising a substantially planar surface having an infeed edge and an outfeed edge;

a guide rail system comprising an infeed rail disposed along said infeed edge and an outfeed rail disposed along said outfeed edge; and

a workpiece guide slidably disposed on said guide rail system, said workpiece guide comprising a fence and an infeed extension connected to said fence, said fence having an infeed end and an outfeed end.

REMARKS

On May 24, 2001, Applicant filed a Response to Office Action (the "Prior Response"). In the Miscellaneous Office Action of August 14, 2001, the Examiner objected to the Prior Response because of improper spacing in the amendments. The present Response corrects these informalities.

On February 21, 2001, Applicant filed an Amendment (the "Prior Amendment") to a prior Office Action (the "Prior Office Action") dated August 21, 2000. In the Office Action of May 8, 2001, the Examiner objected to the sufficiency of the Prior Amendment in response to an objection to the disclosure and to a rejection of claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Responsive to the statements in the Official Action, Applicant has herein amended certain portions of the specification and claim 47.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, the amendments to the paragraphs in the specification have been drafted to encompass to changes relative to the previously amended

version of those respective paragraphs. However, the locations of the amended paragraphs have been referenced relative to the original specification for convenience. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the amendments presented herein to the specification and claim 47. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES."

A. Objection to the Specification

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the objection in the Prior Office Action to page 18, lines 16-17 of the specification did not appear to be sufficiently addressed in Applicant's Prior Amendment. In the Prior Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the disclosure on page 18, lines 16-17 appeared to be confusing and contrary to the description on page 17, lines 15-16 which describes the adjustment mechanisms as part of the support elements rather than part of the infeed extension. In the Prior Amendment, Applicant amended the specification by deleting the alleged confusing language referencing the height adjustment mechanisms on page 17, lines 15-16 in the specification. Thus, deletion of that language removes any confusion or inconsistency caused thereby. Accordingly, removal of that objection is respectfully requested.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner noted that the amendments to the specification regarding the adjustment mechanism as described in the last sentence on page 8 of the Prior Amendment were not found. Applicant submits that the deletion of the above-mentioned language on page 17, lines 15-16 serves to remove the inconsistency with the language on page 18, lines 16-17. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and removal of this objection in view of the explanation above.

The specification has been further amended to clearly indicate the relationship of the support elements by renaming the "slide rail 80" as bracket member 80. This amendment was in accordance with the suggestions of the Examiner provided in the Prior Office Action.

Lastly, the specification has been amended to include reference letters incorporated into the drawings due to inadvertent informalities discovered in the drawings.

On the basis of these amendments, removal of the present objections to the specification is earnestly solicited.

B. Drawings

During the course of Applicant's review of the specification and drawings in preparation for responding to the Official Action, Applicant discovered the informalities identified below in the drawings. Accordingly, applicant requests permission to amend the drawings in the following manners:

Figure 1: Reference number "64" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Figure 2: Reference number "64" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "60" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "30" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow and redirected to point to proper element.

Figure 3: Reference number "64" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "30" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Figure 4: Reference number "98" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "30" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Figure 5: Reference number "98" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "30" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "12" and reference number "12" lead line deleted.

Reference number "105" replaced with reference number "107" to properly show the element.

Reference number "64" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Figure 6: Reference number "98" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "18" lead line redirected to point to proper element surface.

Reference number "12" lead line redirected to point to proper element surface.

Reference number "64" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "105" replaced with reference number "107" to properly show the element.

Reference number "30" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Figure 7: Reference number "65" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "18" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "110" replaced with reference number "10" to properly show the element.

Reference number "16" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "85" replaced with reference number "86" to properly show the element.

Reference number "86" replaced with reference number "85" to properly show the element.

Reference number "67" lead line amended to terminate without an arrow and redirected to point to proper element surface.

Reference number "63" replaced with reference number "74" to properly show the element.

Figure 8: Reference number "105" replaced with reference number "107" to properly show the element.

Reference number "65" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "30" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Figure 13: Reference number "67" lead line amended to terminate without an arrow and redirected to point to proper element surface.

Reference number "104" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "105" lead line amended to terminate without an arrow.

Figure 14: Reference number "67" lead line amended to terminate without an arrow.

Reference number "64" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "105" lead line redirected to point to the proper element surface.

Figure 16: Reference number "64" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow and redirected to point to the proper element.

Reference number "88" lead lines both amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "66" added with a lead line terminating with an arrow to show the element as supported in the original disclosure.

Figure 17: Reference number "16" lead line redirected to point to proper element surface.

Reference letter "A" added to the curved lead line terminating with an arrow to show the directional movement described in the original disclosure.

Figure 18: Reference number "16" lead line redirected to point to proper element surface.

Reference number "97" lead line redirected to point to the proper element.

Reference letter "B" added to the curved lead line terminating with an arrow to show the directional movement described in the original disclosure.

Reference number "104" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

Reference number "63" lead line redirected to point to the proper element.

Figure 19: Reference number "12" lead line redirected to point to proper element surface.

Reference number "18" amended to terminate with an arrow and to point to proper element surface.

Reference number "50" lead line amended to terminate with an arrow.

It is respectfully submitted that the enclosed amendments to the Figures 1-8, 13, 14, and 16-19 serve to conform those Figures to the specification as originally filed and thus contain no new matter. Applicant will file formal drawings containing the proposed amendments upon approval of the proposed amendments and receipt of an indication of allowable subject matter.

As required, the amendments to the drawings have been submitted to the Drawing Review Branch, captioned "LETTER TO DRAFTSPERSON," for their consideration. Accompanying the replacement drawings is a copy of such drawings with the amendments highlighted in red ink. A copy of this communication to the Drawing Review Branch is submitted herewith as Exhibit A.

C. Claims Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that "the rejection to claim 47 has not been sufficiently addressed; in particular, the change to claim 47, lines 7-8 is unclear since the infeed extension is set forth as being connected to itself." Applicant has

herein amended claim 47 to correct that inadvertent error and reflect that the infeed extension is connected to the fence as originally disclosed in the Subject Application. This amendment is supported by the specification on page 15 (lines 15-17), page 16 (lines 15-16), and page 17 (lines 9-12).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the Subject Application, as amended herein, is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Accordingly, reconsideration of the objections and passage of the Subject Application are earnestly solicited. Should any point remain at issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

In addition, should the Examiner deem that there remain grounds outstanding for objecting to the Subject Application, Applicant respectfully requests that any subsequent action not be made final.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

In the specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 13 as follows:

Preferably, workpiece guide 60 further includes support elements adapted to support infeed extension 64 on infeed rail 42. [and to maintain the regions of work supporting surface 67 of infeed platforms 85 and 86 generally coplanar with work surface 12.] In the embodiment shown in the Figures 15-19, the support elements include [a slide rail] an elongated bracket member 80 which is adapted to slidably support infeed extension 64 and workpiece guide 60 on infeed rail 42. In one embodiment, bracket member 80 is an L-shaped bracket member defined by arms 81 and 82 running transverse to body 62 beneath infeed extension 64 and adapted to slidably engage infeed rail 42. The relationship of those elements is indicated in, for example, Figures 14, 17, and 19. In particular, when the workpiece fence 60 is positioned on table saw 10, arm 81 is oriented generally parallel with the surface of infeed extension 64 and is adapted to sit atop outer arm 45 of infeed rail 42. Arm 82 is oriented generally perpendicular to the surface of infeed extension 64 and is adapted to be slidably seated within trough 43 abutting outer arm 45, as is generally shown in Figures 17 and 18. Arm 82 may additionally include lateral adjustment mechanism 88 protruding therefrom in the direction of inner arm 44 of infeed rail 42. Lateral adjustment mechanism 88 includes threaded members 87 and 89. See Figure 16. The threaded members 87 and 89 may include bolts, screws, or the like that are seated within threaded bores (not shown) in the surface of arm 82. Accordingly, it will be appreciated

that threaded members 87 and 89 may be selectively adjusted within the threaded bores (not shown) to seat against inner arm 44 and thereby increase the contact pressure within the trough 43 between bracket member 80 and infeed rail 42. Such construction allows for adjustment of the force required to slide the fence 60 along infeed rail 42. Such construction also increases the stability of the fence 60 within infeed rail 42. Accordingly, such construction of the fence 60 and infeed rail 42 provides consistent support to workpieces placed thereon.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 16 as follows:

The infeed rail attachment mechanism 97 may be reciprocated between either of a clamped position, shown in Figure 18, or an open position, shown in Figure 17, by the lever 108. As indicated in Figure 18, by rotating the lever 108 downward in the direction indicated by [of] the arrow B in that figure, the surface 105 of clamp 104 is brought into contact with a surface of clamp plate 106 and biases the clamp plate 106 into contact with the infeed rail 42, thereby securing the workpiece guide 60 on the rail system 40 at a desired location. To unsecure the workpiece guide 60, the lever 108 is rotated about shaft 107 in the direction indicated by [of] the arrow A of Figure 17, thereby moving surface 105 of clamp 104 out of engagement with clamp plate 106 to release the clamping force between clamp plate 106 and infeed rail 42. Accordingly, infeed rail attachment mechanism 97 represents an improvement in that it allows for improved ease of adjustment of workpiece guide 60. In particular, when lever 108 is in the unclamped position, as shown in Figure 17, surface 105 of clamp 104 is not in contact with clamp plate 106 and thus no clamping pressure is being exerted on the outer arm 45 of infeed rail 42 by infeed rail attachment mechanism 97. In this position, fence 60 is free to slide

along the length of rail system 40. When lever 108 is actuated into the clamped position, as shown in Figure 18, clamp plate 106 is forced into frictional contact against outer arm 45 of infeed rail 42, and workpiece guide 60 is locked in place along the length of rail system 40.

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 47 as follows:

47. (Three Times Amended) The saw of claim 40, further comprising:

a work surface attached atop said housing, said work surface comprising a substantially planar surface having an infeed edge and an outfeed edge;

a guide rail system comprising an infeed rail disposed along said infeed edge and an outfeed rail disposed along said outfeed edge; and

a workpiece guide slidably disposed on said guide rail system, said workpiece guide comprising a fence and an infeed extension connected to said [infeed extension] fence, said fence having an infeed end and an outfeed end.

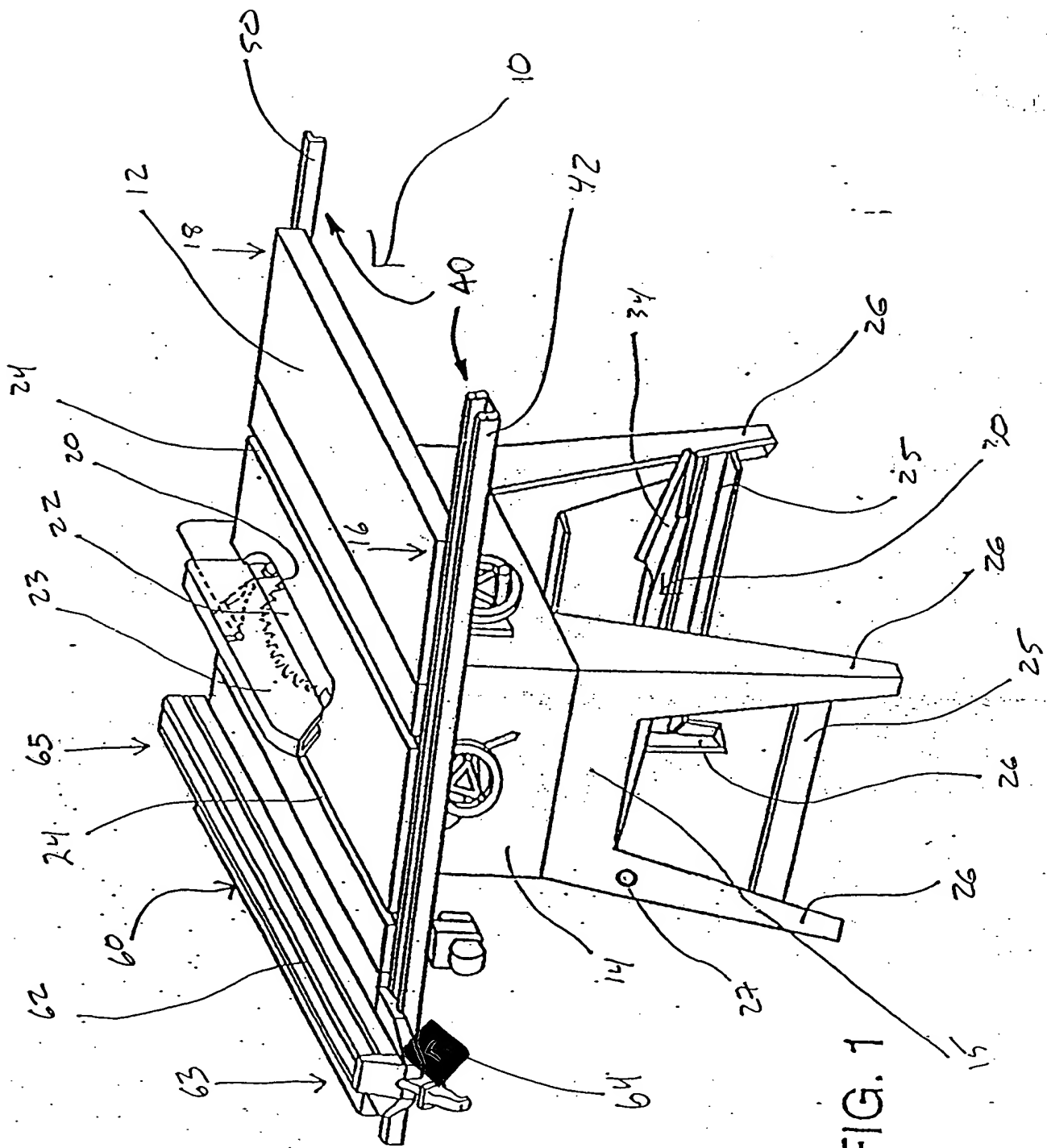
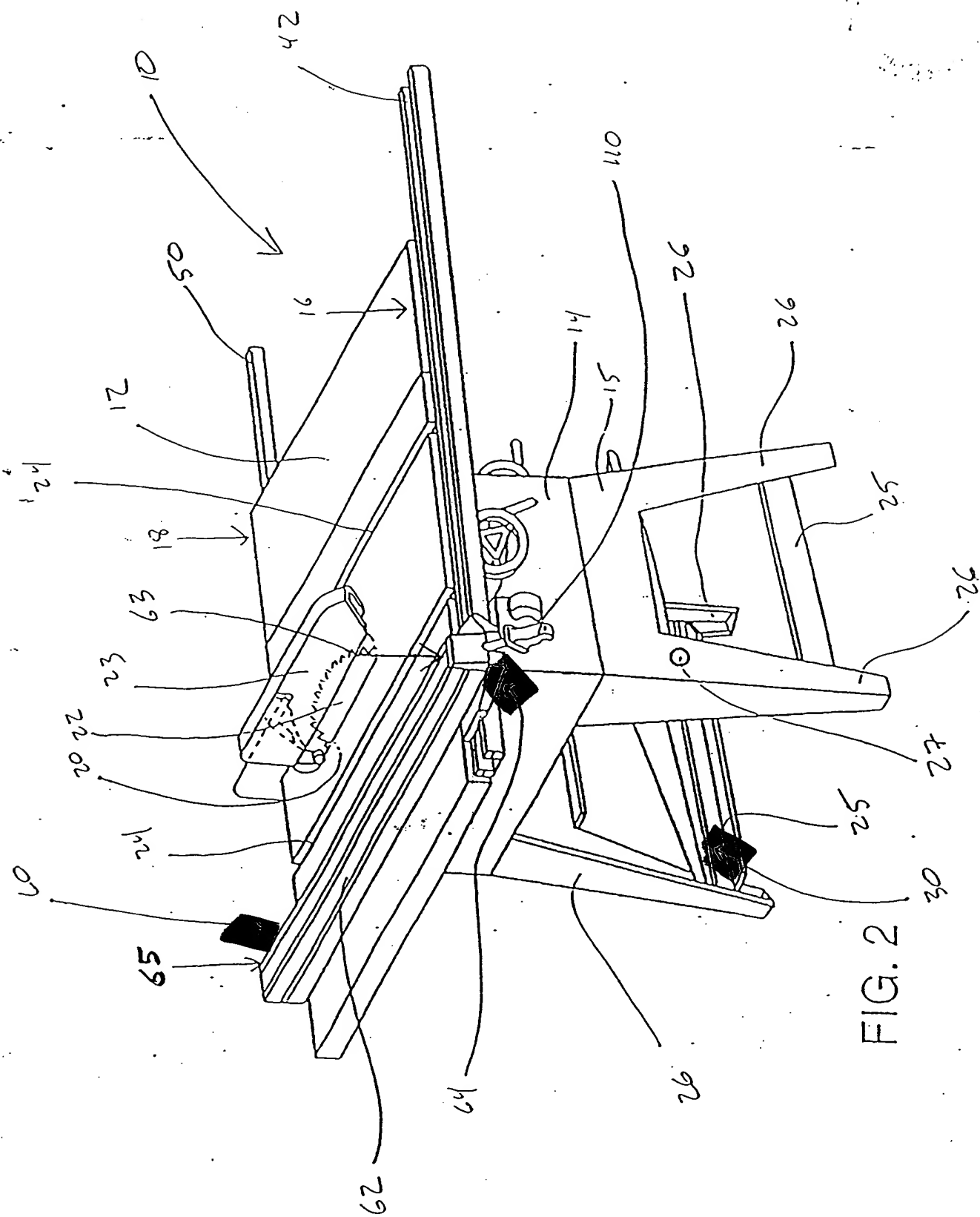
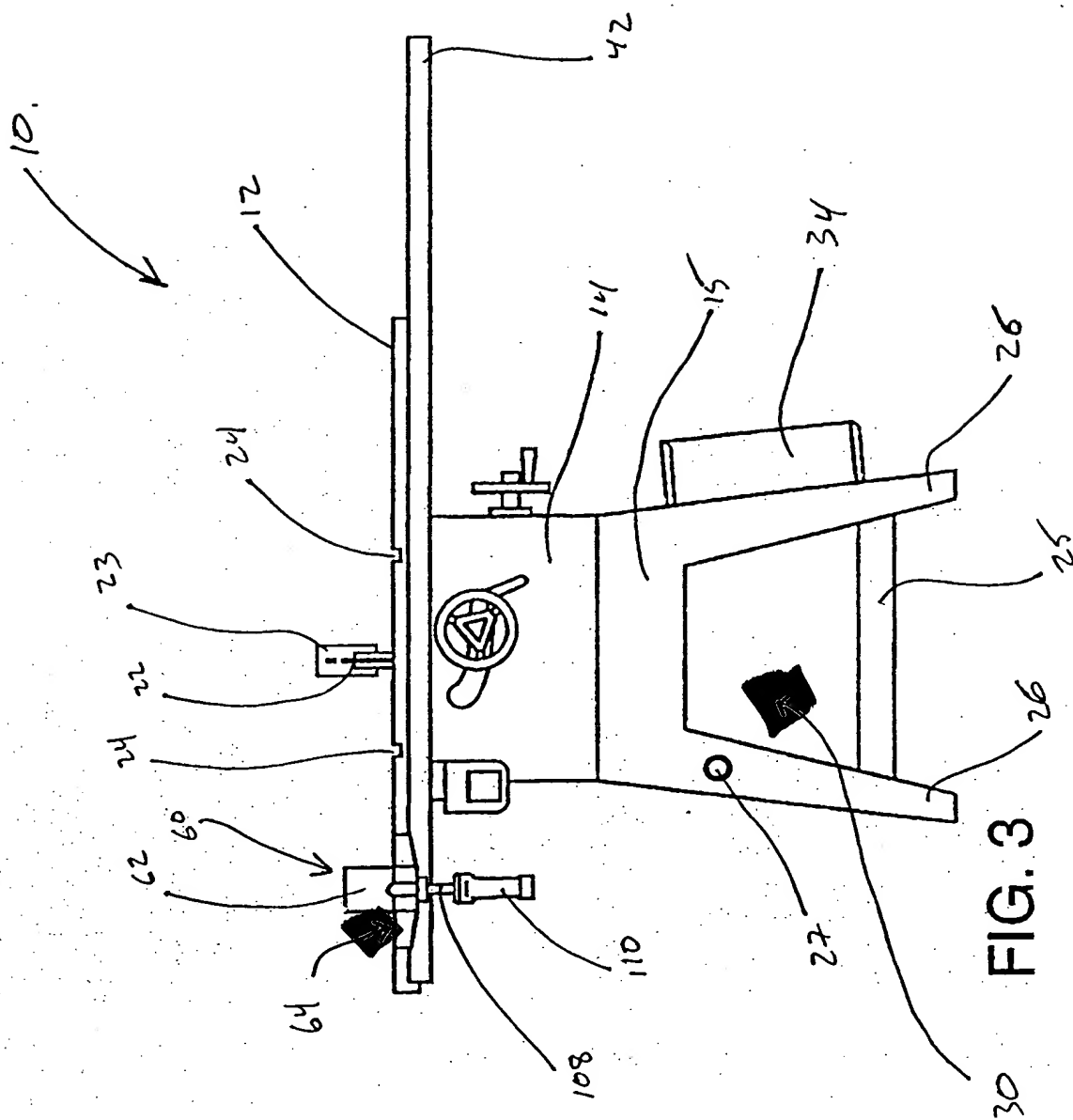


FIG. 1





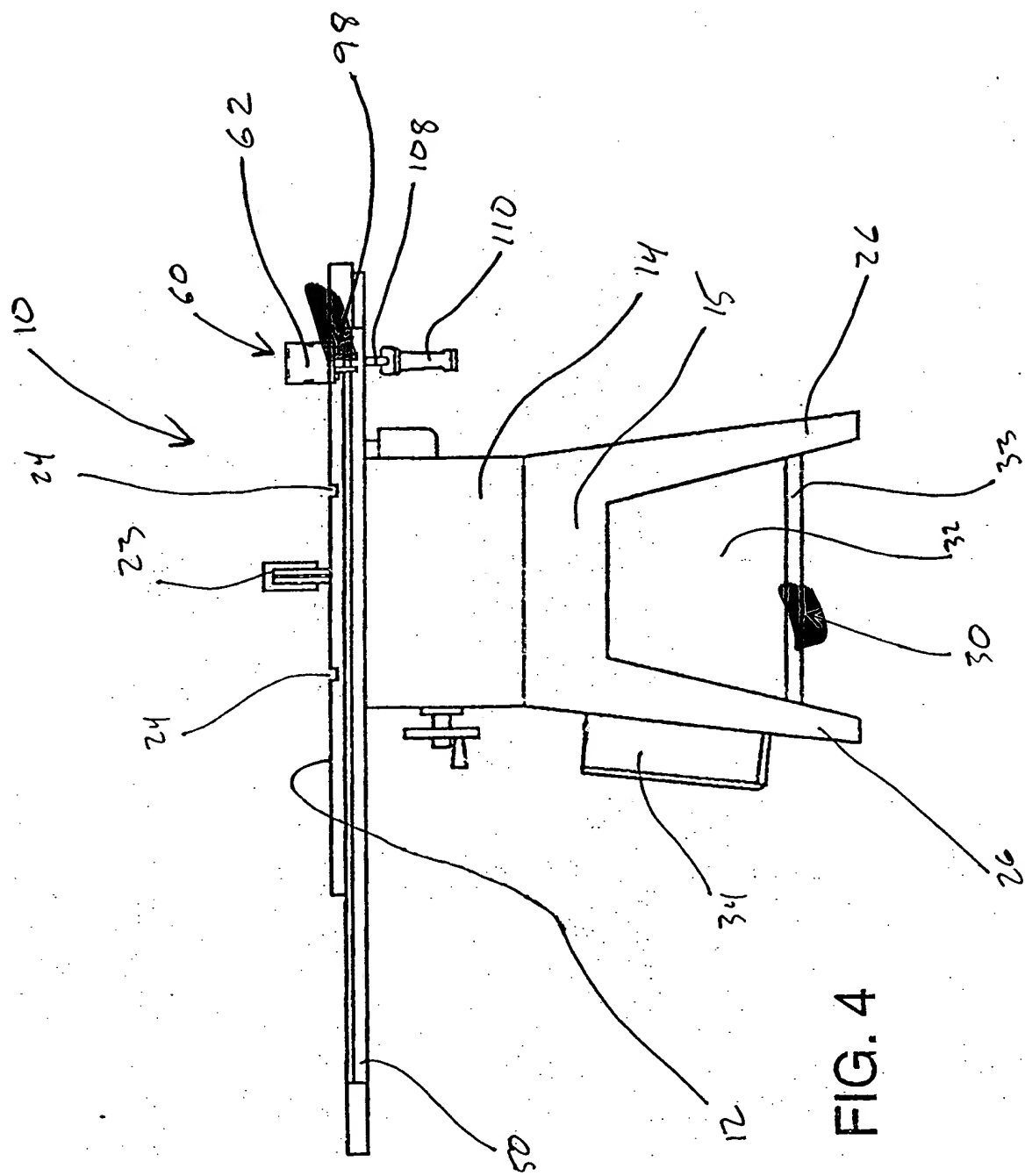


FIG. 4

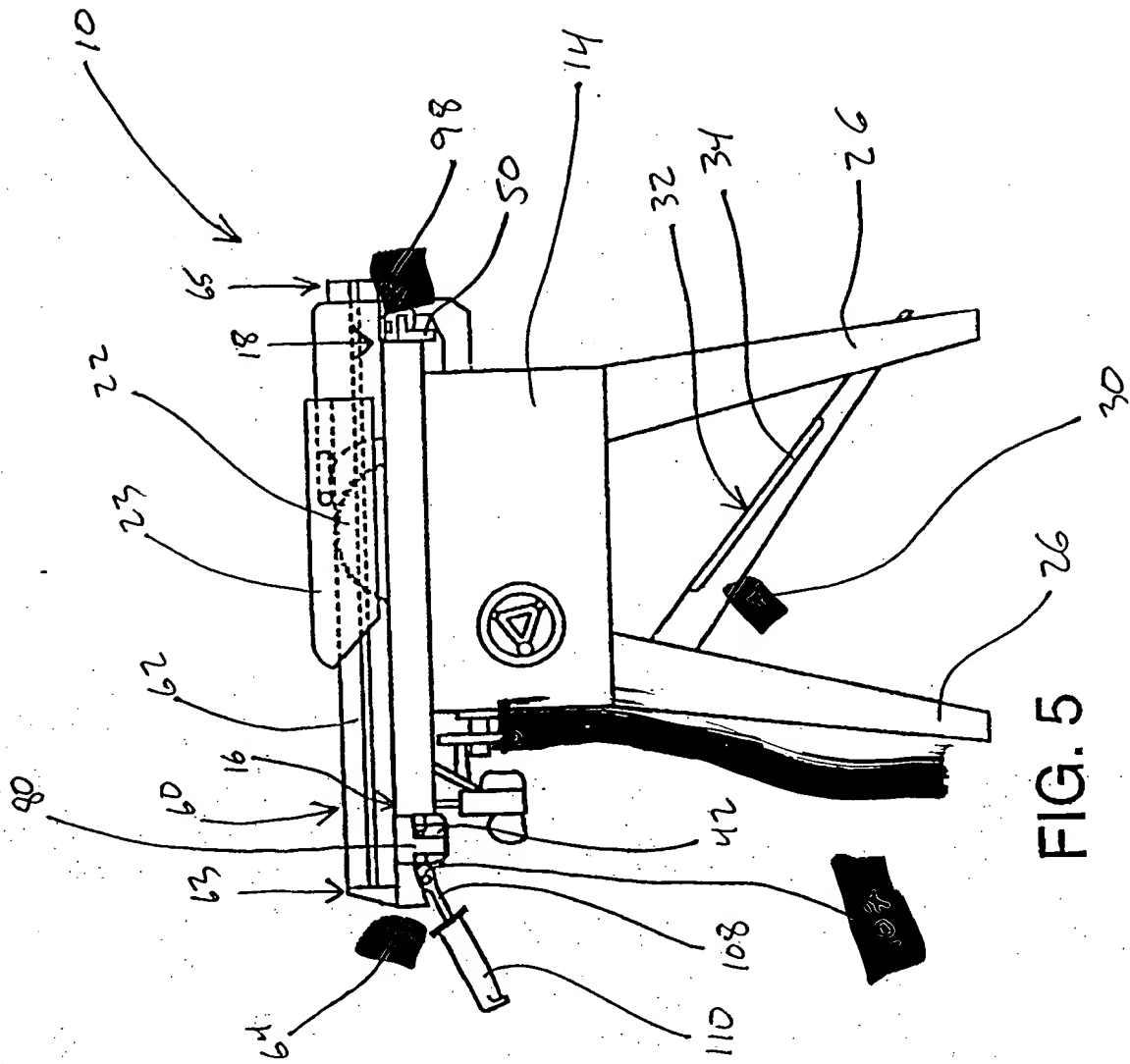
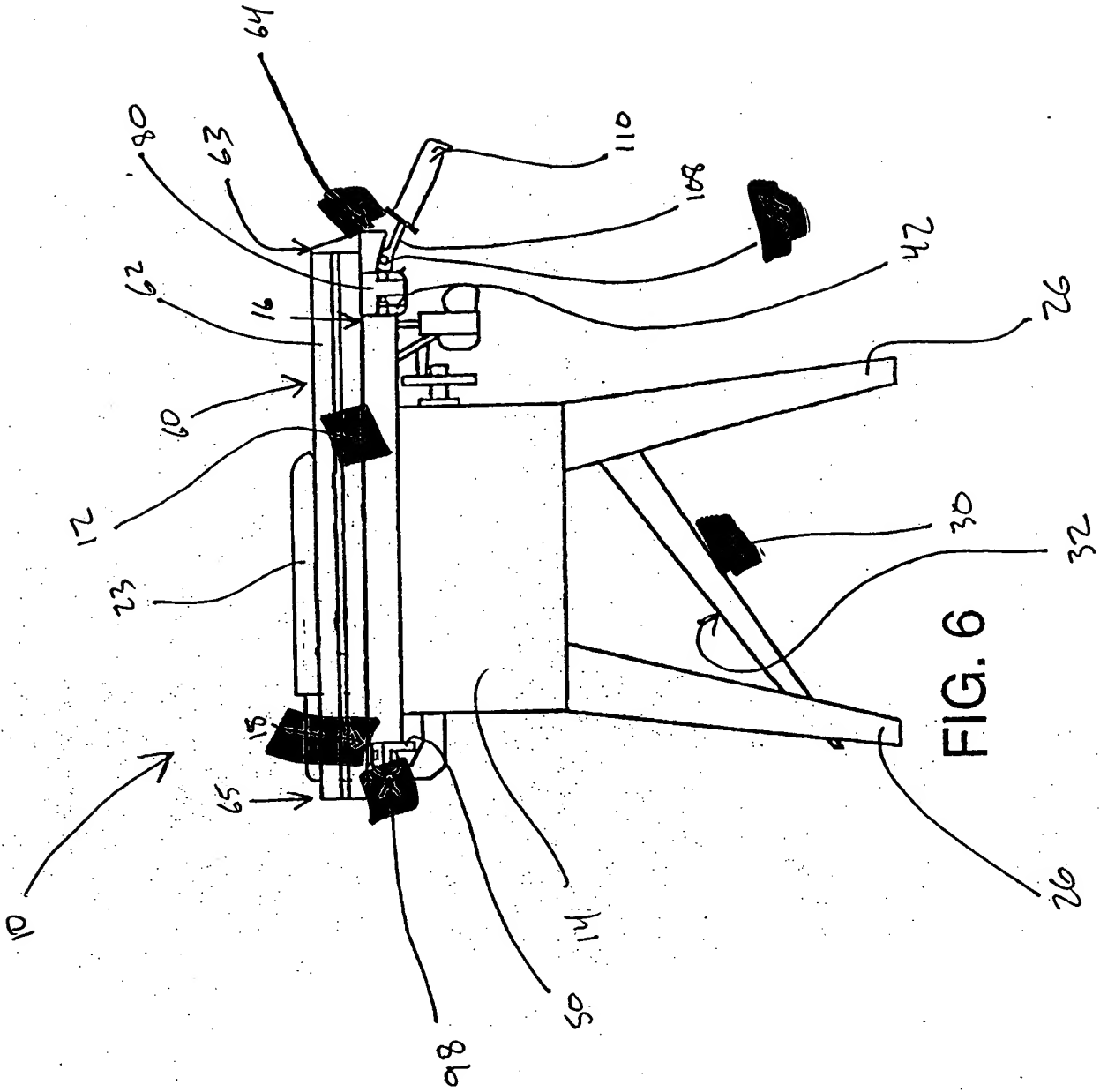
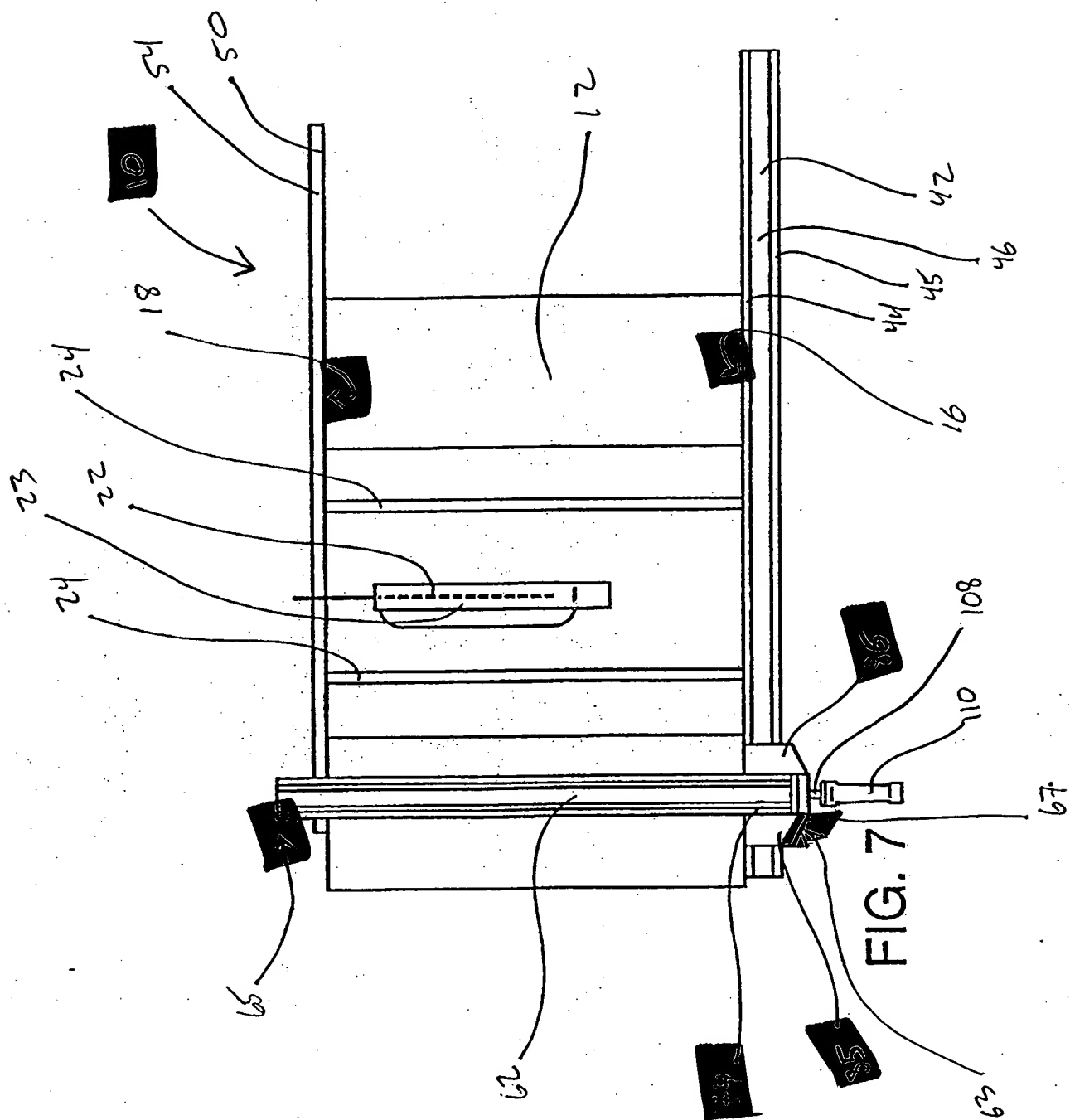
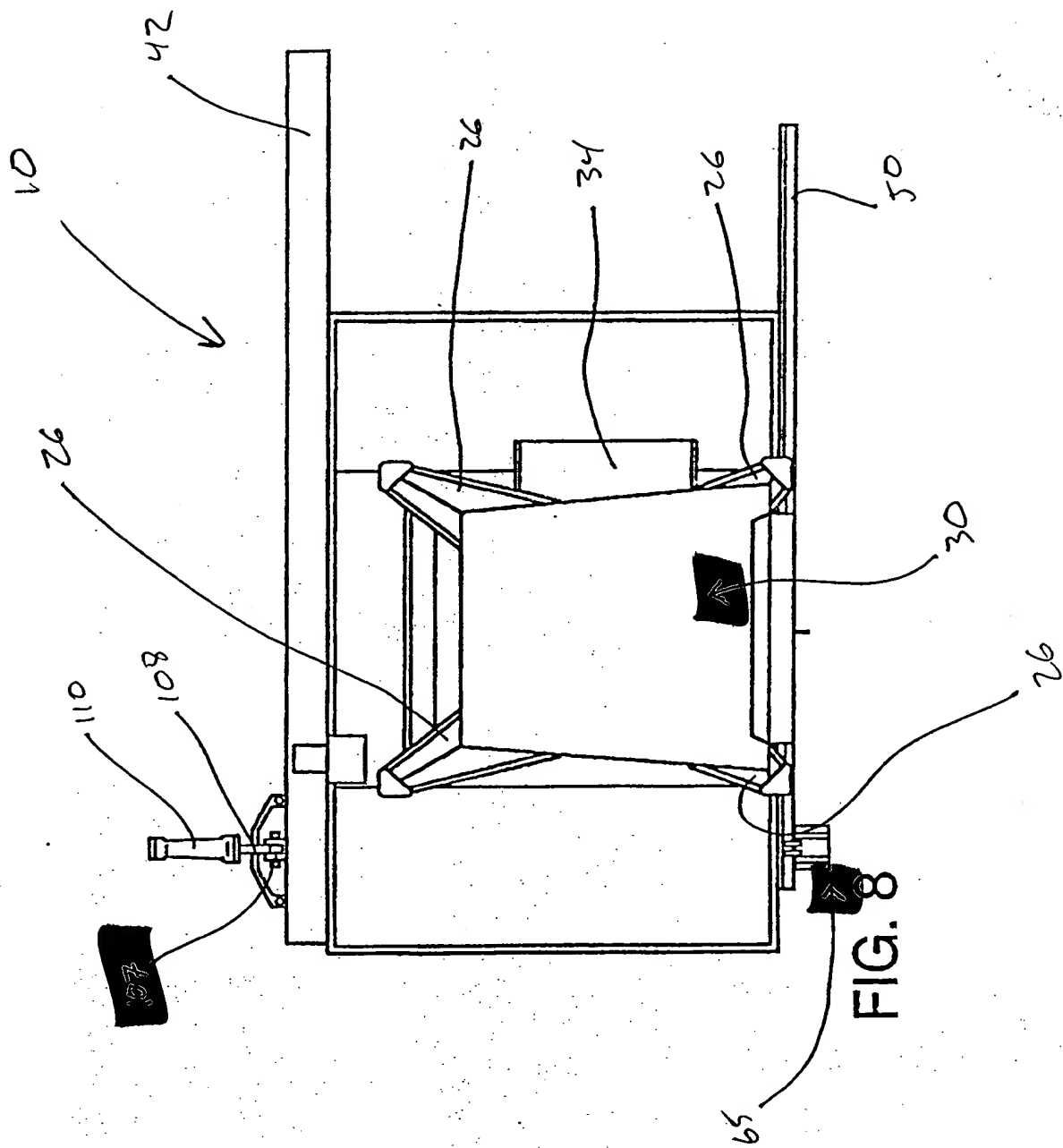
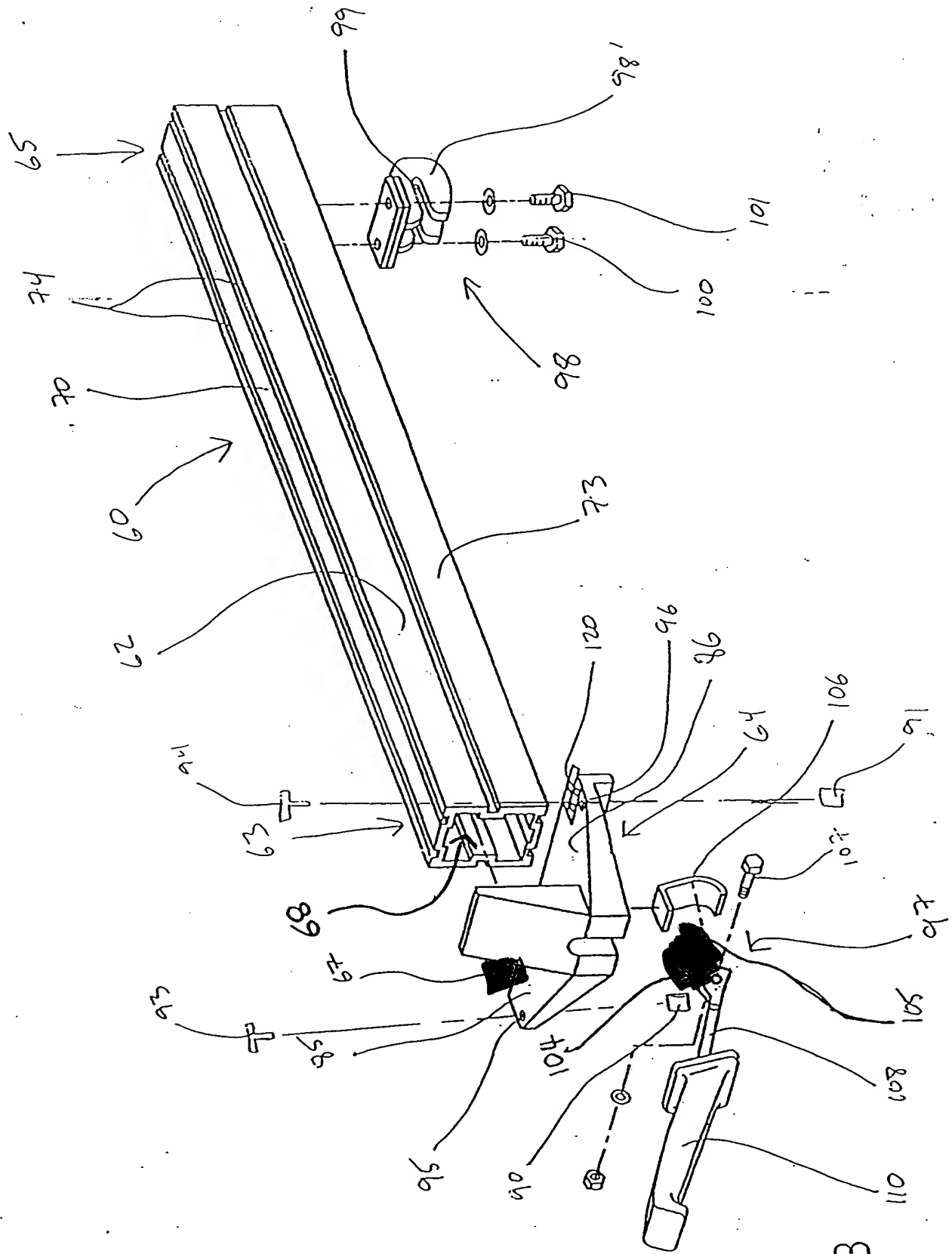


FIG. 5









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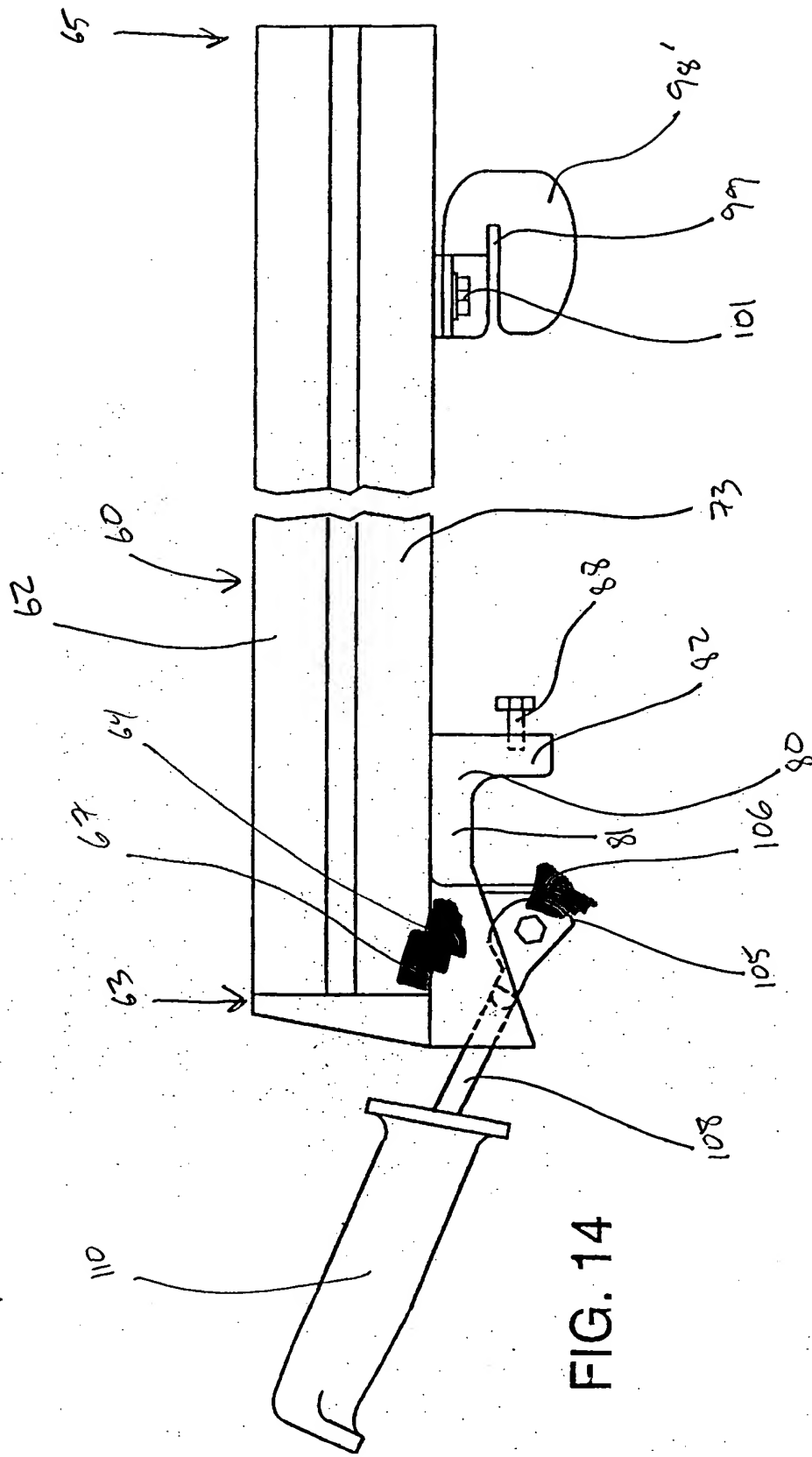


FIG. 14

